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REMARKS

Claim Objections

Claim 18 and claims 19-20 that depend from claim 18 have been objected to because of a lack of antecedent basis for the phrases "the first conductive region" and "the second conductive region." Appropriate correction to claim 18 has been made. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Although not specifically objected to, claim 21 has been amended to correct a similar informality. Namely, claim 21 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for the phrase "the first and second conductive regions."

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,229,163 to Calafut. To expedite prosecution of the application, claim 1 has been canceled and the features of claim 1 have been added to claim 2. The Examiner has indicated that claim 2 would be allowable if placed in independent form. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 13-21 are allowable, if corrected to address the claim objection. As indicated, it is submitted that the claim objection has been satisfactorily addressed.

In addition, the Examiner has indicated that claims 2-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 2 has been rewritten in this manner. Claims 3-13 depend from claim 2.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is


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determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned representative to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988, our Order No. H1710.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

By 
M. David Galin; Reg. No. 41,767

1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
Telephone: (216) 621-1113
Facsimile: (216) 621-6165

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